



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #21 – December 9, 2002

MO 1 - DMAT Team Becomes State Asset

On Nov. 25, 2002, MO 1 - DMAT Commander Mark Thorp (Clayton Fire Department), Jerry Uhlmann (SEMA Director) and Ron Cates (Interim Director Missouri Dept of Health and Senior Services) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) recognizing the team as a state asset. The team earned Federal recognition in September. Over 100 health professionals, communication and administrative specialists are members of the DMAT team. The team can be activated as a state asset by SEMA with a Governor's Emergency Declaration. A unit of up to 35 members can be mobilized to any Missouri location within six hours of activation. The team can set up a self-sustaining field hospital or can move into a hospital to supplement the staff during a catastrophic disaster.

"We are different from MO Task Force 1 – Urban Search and Rescue. They find and rescue victims from collapsed structures. We patch the victims up," Thorp told reporters during a press conference at SEMA.

Department of Homeland Security Signed into Law, Nov. 25, 2002

The largest reorganization of Federal agencies into the Department of Homeland Security became a reality on Nov. 25, 2002. The Homeland Security Department combines federal agencies with law enforcement duties including FEMA into one department focusing on protecting the country against terrorism. The Department will be headed by Tom Ridge (former Homeland Security Advisor). Deputy Director Gordon England (former Secretary of the Navy) and Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Asa Hutchinson (former Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency) will assist Ridge.

The Department will focus on three major objectives:

- Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States;
- Reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism; and
- Minimize the damage from potential attacks and natural disasters.

President Bush expects all participating agencies to be brought into the new department by March 1, 2003.

Homeland Security Reorganization Plan

The White House has issued an 18 pp. report on its reorganization plan. Full text is available at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/11/reorganization_plan.pdf. If the site doesn't work, you can go to www.findlaw.com, and go to search and enter Homeland Security Act of 2002

This Reorganization Plan outlines:

- The transfer of agencies, personnel, assets, and obligations to the Department
- Any consolidation, reorganization, or streamlining of agencies transferred to the Department pursuant to this Act. Section 1502(a).

Additional details concerning the process for establishing the Department will become available in the coming weeks and months, and the President will work closely with Congress to modify this plan consistent with the Act.

Earthquake Education Outreach Update

Although the Center for Earthquake Studies (CES) recently ceased operations, SEMA is still committed to providing priority Earthquake Education and Outreach support to Southeast Missouri residents. Beginning early March 2003, the Earthquake Educational Outreach program for the area formerly covered by the CES will be delivered by qualified personnel trained by SEMA. All requests for presentations and materials will go through

SEMA's Area Coordinator Mark Winkler in Cape Girardeau and/or Earthquake Program Manager Randy Scrivner in Jefferson City.

As in the past, local EMDs in any jurisdiction that could be seriously affected by a major earthquake will be encouraged to continue delivering Earthquake presentations to local civic organizations as part of their statement of work. Local EMD requests for training materials or special programs may be made to Randy Scrivner. Randy also will respond to earthquake information requests made by private citizens.

Planning Region E Area Coordinator Has New Office in Cape Girardeau

Troop E (Southeast Missouri) Area Coordinator Mark Winkler's new address is 3102 Blattner Dr., Suite 105, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703. His primary office telephone number is (573) 290-5125 and the fax number is (573) 290-5127. His cell phone and pager numbers remain the same.

Future SEMA Training Opportunities...

- 12/16-17/02 – Resource Management, Dept of Health, Independence
- 1/7-9/03 – Emergency Response to Terrorism T-t-T, Columbia
- 1/9-10/03 – Community Mass Care, St. Louis County EMA, Chesterfield
- 1/14-16/03 – Emergency Planning, St. Louis County EMA, Chesterfield
- 1/15-16/03 – ICS Advanced, St. Louis City EMA, St. Louis
- 1/21-23/03 – ICS/EOC Interface, Dept of Health, Independence
- 1/29-30/03 – Resource Management, St. Louis City EMA, St. Louis
- 2/4-5/03 – Law Enforcement Response to WMD (LSU Awareness), Greene County EMA, Springfield
- 2/4-6/03 – ICS Intermediate, Dept of Health, Harrisonville
- 2/6-7/03 – Developing Volunteer Resources, St. Louis City EMA, St. Louis
- 2/11-12/03 – Law Enforcement Response to WMD (Awareness), St. Louis City EMA, St. Louis
- 2/14-15/03 – Crisis Communications Conference, Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach
- 2/18-20/03 – Principles of Emergency Management, St. Peters
- 2/18-19/03 – Emergency Response to Criminal Terrorist Incident, St. Louis City EMA, St. Louis
- 2/25-26/03 – Hazardous Weather and Flooding, St. Louis County EMA, Chesterfield
- 2/26-27/03 – Debris Management, Kansas City
- 2/26-27/03 – ICS/EOC Interface, St. Louis City EMA, St. Louis
- 2/27/03 – Senior Officials Workshop (WMD), Sikeston

U.S. State Department Designated Foreign Terrorist Organization List Five Foreign Groups Have a Presence in U.S.

In 1996, President Clinton signed the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (P.L. 104-132). Section 302 of this act directs the Secretary of State, the U. S. Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury to designate any organization that meets certain proscribed criteria as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO). The newest list (dated October 29, 2002) names 35 different FTO groups of which five have a presence in the U.S.

The five extremists groups with a presence in the U. S. are: **AL-Qaeda** (Islamic - worldwide), **AL-Gama'a AL-Islamiyya** (Islamic in Egypt), **Hizballah** (Islamic Shi'a linked to Iran in Lebanon), **Kahane Chai** (Jewish in Israel, West Bank), and **Mujahedin-E-Khalq Organization** (Marxists-Islamic, Iranian in Iraq).

The entire FTO list is on the SEMA's homepage: <http://www.sema.state.mo.us/terrorlinks.htm>

The New Term is "Homeland Security Planning Regions"

First, SEMA had a numbered region. With the advent of Homeland Security, the new name was Troop Areas. Since SEMA and emergency management directors will be working closely with Department of Health planners and Highway Patrol intelligence officials, the official term will now be Homeland Security Planning Regions A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H or I. We will focus on multi-jurisdictional regional plans, exercises and response capabilities

Justice Department Freezes “First Responder” Funds

The Justice Department has frozen \$651 million in fiscal 2003 grants to states to pay for firefighters, police officers and emergency workers, according to Assistant Attorney General Deborah Daniels. States have argued that they need the money to bolster anti-terrorism efforts, but the money has been frozen because Congress has not yet enacted most fiscal 2003 spending bills and the department is being funded under a stopgap measure set at fiscal 2002 funding levels.

Lott Not Eager to Rush into Post-9/11 Spending on Interoperability, 1st Responders

Sen. Trent Lott (R., Miss.) returning Senate majority leader said that the Senate under his leadership will carefully scrutinize spending on emergency communications and other first-responder monies proposed in the wake of last year's terrorist attacks. With Congress adjourning without approving additional funding for communications interoperability or first-responder radios, Sen. Lott indicated that advocates for such funding could face a tough time getting money during the 108th Congress. The new Department of Homeland Security was created without including \$3.5 billion in spending for first responders that President Bush had requested.

CDC Issues Smallpox Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a Smallpox Vaccine fact sheet focusing on smallpox symptoms, vaccine information, who should and who should not get a vaccination, risk information and types of reactions. The fact sheet can be downloaded <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/vis-spox.pdf>

FEMA Announced Round 9 Fire Grants

Eleven Missouri Fire Departments received fire fighter grants from FEMA in the 9th round of funding. The St. Robert City Fire and Rescue received \$225,000 for a firefighting vehicle.

The other 10 departments received grants for fire operations and firefighter safety. Those 10 departments are: Black Jack Fire Prot. District (\$40,425); City of Ladue Fire Dept. (\$13,500); Mid-County Fire Prot. District in Camdenton (\$156,375); City of Jefferson Fire Dept. (\$105,318); Creighton Fire Prot. District No.5 (\$11,597); Waynesville Rural Fire Prot. District (\$213,252); Neosho Fire Dept. (\$69,156); Exeter Community Vol. Fire Dept. (\$69,012); Bismarck Rural Fire Prot. Assn. (\$73,917); and Lake St. Louis Fire Prot. District (\$39,636).

MO Task Force 1 – USAR Receives Grant

Missouri Senator Bond visited the Boone County Fire Protection District on November 7, 2002, to announce that Missouri Task Force 1 – USAR Federal Team #25 will receive \$1.5 million from FEMA to upgrade equipment and personnel capabilities in order to respond to a WMD “dirty bomb” building collapse. Task Force 1 is in the second tier of the next six USAR Teams to received WMD equipment and training. Eventually all 28 Federal USAR Teams will have identical WMD response capabilities.

Health Debuts Preparedness Newsletter

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is publishing an electronic newsletter - **Public Health Preparedness Response Update**.

Health's Bioterrorism homepage is http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/BT_Response/BT_Response.html. The **Update** link is http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/BT_Response/DHSSPreparednessReponseUpdateNov_2002.pdf

FEMA and OMB Announce Pilot Launch of "disasterhelp.gov"

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have announced a one-stop portal for disaster preparedness and response information, which can be accessed at www.disasterhelp.gov. The purpose of this initiative is for first responders and emergency managers to share disaster response and recovery information with each other, as well as with public and private organizations, in a cost efficient manner. FEMA encourages local EMDs to send their outstanding local initiative to SEMA, which will then be forwarded to FEMA for consideration.